

News from Live Oak – September, 2012

Welcome, Cecilia Owen, New Children's Religious Ed Teacher!

Our Children's Religious Education (CRE) Committee first met and interviewed Cecilia two years ago. We were disappointed then when she chose to go to Baltimore (B'More) to serve a Family Advocate residency at a hospital there. So we were thrilled when she wrote to tell us she was coming back to the Bay Area and was interested in our teaching position. Yay!

Cecilia taught religious education at the Berkeley Fellowship of UUs in 2009-10. She prepared and taught curriculum to a multi-age group of children, just as she will at Live Oak. She also co-ordinated intergenerational worship services there – and will work with our worship team to help create intergen services for us. Cecilia also worked with K-8th graders as a school librarian for several years.

And working with Cecilia will be our own Avery Roth-Hawthorne. We welcome Avery back to our CRE program. We also hope to add another person to this team before too long.

Cecilia will work 8 hours a month for Live Oak and will also serve the Berkeley Fellowship as their ministerial intern this year. It will be wonderful to have yet another connection to the Berkeley Fellowship. See Cecilia's letter to us on page 2.

Please join us as we welcome Cecilia this Sunday (September 16th). Here's hoping many of our children will be here to help make this a very special Sunday.

Adult Faith Development: On Faith & Reason – Sept. 21

Veteran journalist Bill Moyer asks, "In a world where religion poisons some lives, but gives profound purpose to others, how do we learn to live together?" Join adult members and friends



of Live Oak on the third Friday of the month to watch as Bill sits down with noted writers and thinkers from a wide spectrum of beliefs. These one-on-one conversations touch on the pressing issues in our world: increasing politicization of faith, the perceived gulf between science and religion, the tension between tolerance and free expression, and more.

This month (Sept. 21) we will hear Margaret Atwood and Martin talk openly about their most heartfelt beliefs and how those beliefs inform their lives and work. Join us at the home of David and Lisa Fry. Drop in for one session or come for them all. RSVP: lisafry@gmail.com. We gather at 7:30 p.m.

"Hello Live Oak! Hello from Bee'More to Bay Area!"

I am glad to be returning to the Bay Area to serve as your Children's Religious Education teacher at Live Oak in Alameda. I am looking forward to a great year of fun and inspiration as we learn together in community...

During this year, I will also be completing a ministerial internship at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (BFUU) in Berkeley. I feel blessed to be connected with both of these vital communities this year.

Baltimore, affectionately called B'more, Bawler, and/or "Be More Careful," has been my home for the last two years. I originally came out to the Baltimore/Washington DC area for a chaplain residency program at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. I stayed on for another residency year at the Washington DC government psychiatric hospital called St. Elizabeth's. I have learned a ton about ministry, chaplaincy and mental health from my last two years as a chaplain.



Amongst the fun adventures of the past two years was a trip to a friend's home in Pennsylvania where they keep a bee hive. We donned our netting gear and stepped in close, to see how the honey comb is formed. Have any of you all tried this?

I am looking forward to hearing the buzz from all of you at Live Oak about your adventures this summer...

See you soon! Best wishes,

Cecilia
Cecilia Owen, MDiv
owen.cecilia@gmail.com
617-460-3125 cell

Live Oak's Charitable Giving: We continue to serve the world around us by giving away our entire collection at every service. This year we've given more than \$3,500 to: First Place for Youth, People's Grocery, Alameda Food Bank, Alameda Point Collaborative, the Ecology Center, Standing on the Side of Love campaign, the UU Ministry for the Earth, and UU Service Committee. Total so far is well more than \$16,000 in our short history. We are a small, but generous community!



Important Congregational Meeting: Sunday, Sept. 30

All our actions as a Fellowship should be consistent with our stated mission. But what is Live Oak's mission?

We've spent many months working on it. Now we are looking to you – our members – to make the final selection of our mission statement. Join us Sunday, September 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Christ Episcopal Church. Together, we will choose the statement that best describes who we are and what we are trying to accomplish as a community.

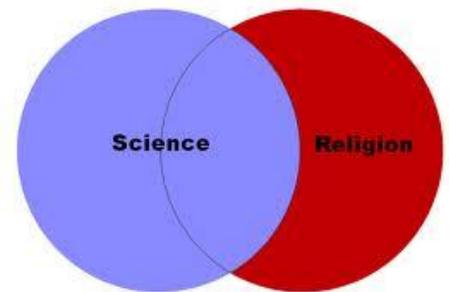
This is an important decision – and meeting – for our growing congregation. Please RSVP to lisafry@gmail.com to affirm that you will be part of this vital process.

Only members may vote, per our bylaws. If you wish to be able to vote at the meeting on the 30th -- and have been considering becoming a member -- you may do so on Sunday, September 16 after the service and still qualify to vote on the 30th. See Lisa Fry.

Every-Sunday Programming: Still Coming!

The Live Oak Board of Trustees and our congregation overwhelmingly support the idea of meeting every Sunday. We had hoped to get this going by this fall, but now are looking to early 2013. We will continue with our regular worship services two Sundays a month and will supplement those in several ways, including, but not limited to the following ideas:

- An Intergenerational Science & Religion Program
- Social Justice Activities and Learning
- More Guest Worship Leaders
- Taizé Services
- TED Talks (or other Video Forums) Followed by Discussion



We absolutely welcome your ideas. And we are truly to announce that Renee Harper has agreed to coordinate these activities. Renee will need a team of volunteers to help. So please let Renee (or any of us on the Board) know that you are interested in helping to make this happen.

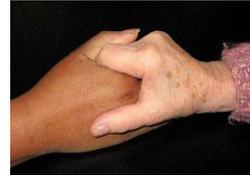


We'll need a lot of worker bees to make this happen. Please step up – and help us grow our community and deepen our faith!

Caring Committee – Expanding Capabilities

We are also pleased to tell you the Rev. Ben Meyers, Berkeley Fellowship of UUs, has agreed to provide pastoral/ministerial services beyond the abilities of our regular volunteers on a fee-per-service basis. He will be available to help plan memorial services, make hospital visits, and spiritual counseling. In addition, he'll help with weddings, ceremonies of union, and more.

If you know someone in our community (including yourself) who has a health issue or is in need of some services that our Live Oak community might be able to provide, please contact either Jay Roller (JayBRoller2002@yahoo.com; 510-295-7832) or Sally Kennedy (deskennedy@att.net; 510-655-9672), the Caring Committee coordinators.



As always, first contact Jay or Sally. They will determine (occasionally with the added guidance of Kris Arrington) if we need to contact Ben and will be the liaisons to him. Our fellowship will contribute to the cost of some ministerial services for members of the fellowship.

Missed a Service? You've Missed a Couple of Doozies

We have had a number of wonderful worship services in the past few months. If you had to miss one or more, remember we post homilies and reflections on our website: <http://uuliveoak.org/past-services.htm>. Some of the newest posts include:

- Listen to [Worship Associate Kris Arrington's reflection on suffering](#)
- Listen to [Worship Leader Kate Hand's homily on suffering](#)
- Listen to [Worship Associate Nancy Armstrong-Temple's reflection on loss](#)
- Listen to [Worship Leader Jody Savage's homily on loss](#)
- [Read Worship Leader Jay Roller's homily on Families We Choose](#) (no audio)

Games Night: Another Huge Success!

Twenty-four adults and kids gathered for a casual evening of food and games, interspersed with laughter and camaraderie. It was really a fun evening and folks requested we do this again soon. So watch for the next date! Many thanks to all who brought food and/or games and those who helped with set-up and clean-up. Teamwork!

Small Group Ministry: New Group Possible

We currently have two Small Groups meeting regularly and making a difference in each others' lives. Now we have some new folks interested in getting involved.

Here's some basic info on what Small Group Ministry (SGM) is. Members of an SGM group get to know one another and deepen their own spirituality by participating together in discussions of topics of universal human significance. The topics are intended to focus the group's attention on the things we have in common just by being human.

These are not study groups, debate societies, or therapy sessions. The topics are the means to the end of getting to know ourselves and each other. By watching and listening to each other grapple with the topics, the participants learn about each other in a different way than they would by serving on a committee or meeting at a coffee hour or some other social event.

At the first gathering of each group, those present will decide together how often to meet, where to meet, and how to manage the facilitation of the group. One of our current groups meets once a month in the home of a member. The other meets twice a month. They also meet in homes, but move from one location to another.

If you choose to be in an SGM group, you will be asked to make attendance at your meetings a priority. We also ask you give the group a chance – attend for four sessions. In the experience of the congregations that have tried SGM, four meetings is what it takes to give the group a chance.

Do you want to join a group? We have several people hoping to help create a new group, perhaps meeting on Tuesday evenings. Email Lisa Fry (lisasfry@gmail.com) and let her know if you are interested! And, if you want to be part of a SGM, let us know if Tuesday evening works for you – or what day might be better.

Please reply ASAP. We hope to get a new group started quickly.

Potluck: Volunteer Opportunity

Please sign up to help with dishwashing for this week or an upcoming potluck. Check out our new dishwashing doodle at <http://doodle.com/p7pqdgnbzfsg7wct>.

